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COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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COM(78) 286 final.

Brussels, 16 June 1978.

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COMMISSION COMMUNICATION TO THE COUNCIL

on the temporary extension of bilateral relations in
the fisheries sector between Italy and Yugoslavia

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COMMISSION COMMUNICATION TO THE COUNCIL ON THE
TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF BILATERAL RELATIONS IN THE
FISHERIES SECTOR BETWEEN ITALY AND YUGOSLAVIA

1. In its Resolution of 3 November 1976 the Council agreed that it was necessary to maintain by "appropriate Community agreements" existing rights for Community fishermen in the waters of non-Community countries.
2. Under an Agreement signed between Yugoslavia and Italy on 15 June 1973, Italian fishermen were authorized to fish in certain parts of Yugoslav territorial waters in exchange for financial compensation paid by Italy. This Agreement expired on 31 December 1976.
3. To enable Italian fishermen to continue to fish in these waters, the Council, by its Decision of 13 December 1976, authorized Italy to agree with Yugoslavia on an interpretation enabling this Agreement to be extended until a Fishing Agreement could be concluded between the Community and Yugoslavia, and at the latest until 31 December 1977.
4. Following this Decision the Commission repeatedly invited the Yugoslav authorities in 1977 to negotiate an Agreement with the Community. As there was no reaction from Yugoslavia, the Council, by a Decision of 20 December 1977, authorized Italy to extend for six months the arrangement made with Yugoslavia in 1977.
5. Since this Decision was taken the Commission has continued to press the Yugoslav authorities on the need to open negotiations to conclude a fishing agreement with the Community. In spite of repeated approaches Yugoslavia has not yet indicated its position with regard to opening negotiations with the Community on this matter.
6. For the reasons given under 3., that is to prevent any break in fishing relations with a non-member country which would be to the detriment of Community fishermen, the Commission proposes to authorize Italy to agree with Yugoslavia on an interpretation of the 1973 Agreement enabling it to be extended until a Fishing Agreement is concluded between the Community and Yugoslavia, and at the latest until 31 December 1978.

7. The financial implications of this Decision will be much the same as those resulting from the Council Decision of 20 December 1977 authorizing the extension of the Agreement for the first six months of this year. These implications are specified in the Annex.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

1. Under the Fishing Agreement signed in 1973 between Yugoslavia and Italy, Italy pays Lit 570 million per annum (540 000 EUA at the rate on 24 May 1978) in compensation for access for one hundred trawlers to Yugoslav territorial waters. As the average tonnage of the vessels covered by this Agreement is 80 t, the cost is 67.50 EUA per tonne.

2. It is proposed that the Community's financial participation should be limited, as in the first half of 1978, to the expenditure incurred by the Italian authorities, minus reasonable royalties to be paid by the fishermen themselves.

3. The first Supplementary and Amending Budget for 1978 included a heading for the expenditure, viz. Article 470 : "Reimbursement in respect of certain financial obligations relating to fishing in the Adriatic".

The appropriations needed to cover the expenditure caused by extending the Agreement for the second half of 1978 should be provided for by a supplementary budget or by transfer. The net expenditure is estimated at 215 000 EUA.

